details. The matter is under investigation and it is likely to go to Court very soon, and I think, it is better that we refrain from going into details."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Were there any auditing of accounts and if so when was it audited and when it was brought to the notice of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It was during the routine audit that the first shortage was brought to the notice of the Government. After that, we instituted a special audit for that purpose, wherein we found further shortages."

Industrial dispute in Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke

* 1827 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received a joint application through the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, on 19th January 1955 under section 10 (2) of the Industrial Disputes Act by the representatives of Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, Malabar, and those of the Commonwealth Labour Union for referring the question of bonus for the year 1952–53, increase of 2 annas in dearness allowance and gratuity, for adjudication; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The dispute has been referred for adjudication."

Koothali estate

* 1828 Q.—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hon. Minister for Agriculture discussed with the Collector the problem of leasing land in Koothali Estate during his recent visit to Malabar;

(b) whether Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar, M.L.A., met him in connexion with the same problem and the Satyagraha that was going on there; and

(c) whether any undertaking regarding the leasing of lands in Koothali Estate and withdrawal of Satyagraha was given by him to Sri Krishna Ayyar, M.L.A., and if so, what it was?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) No."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that the struggle of the Koothali peasants has already been withdrawn as a result of the interview the Malabar Kisan Sangh representatives had with the Collector of Malabar and also the interview Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar had with the Hon. Minister. Though no undertaking was given, it was withdrawn on the understanding that the Government would take suitable action in the matter and see that, without affecting the reserved forests and the lands under litigation, other lands would be given to the peasants for cultivation? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have heard that some persons who sought to trespass into the forest area were prevented from doing so. I do not know what the struggle is, whether there was a struggle and what was the basis on which the so-called struggle was withdrawn."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know the representations made by Sri Krishna Ayyar to the Hon. Minister? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member, Sri Krishna Ayyar, had told me that they were prevented from entering the land and they should be given lease of land in the forest areas. Then I discussed the matter with the Collector and after ascertaining the position, I told Sri Krishna Ayyar when he met me on my way back from Malabar that the Collector was of the opinion that there was no land in the forest which could be leased out and disafforested. But still the Collector had already told the people who wanted to cultivate the land a month ago, that if they could point out any specific plot of land in that area which could be cultivated, he and the District Forest Officer would examine the matter and then decide it but they should not resort to any other course. The Collector also told me that there were about 1,200 acres of vacant land in another area which had been reserved and he asked those people whether they could cultivate them but still they were not interested in the proposal."

Secretaries to market committees

* 1829 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 8-40 a.m.

(*a*) the reasons for amending the Madras Commercial Crops Marketing Act, 1933, and for appointing the Government Secretary to the Market Committee; and

(*b*) whether the appointment of a Government Secretary has improved the activities and the financial position of the South Arcot Market Committee?